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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public invited to workshop on Indian River Lagoon-South, C-23 / C-24 Storm Water Treatment Area project

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Interested members of the public will receive an update on the detailed design and construction progress on the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) project at an upcoming workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

The workshop, scheduled for Wed, April 25 at the Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 South Rock Rd., Ft. Pierce, Fla., will focus on design efforts for the C-23/24 storm water treatment area components of the IRL-S project. An open house will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by presentations and an opportunity for attendees to comment and ask questions at 7 p.m.

Detailed design on the C-23/24 storm water treatment area is under way by the Corps of Engineers, with completion expected by Fall 2007. The SFWMD is in the process of acquiring land in the reservoir footprint. Construction for the project is contingent on project authorization and signing of a project cooperation agreement by the SFWMD and the Corps.

The IRL-S project will reverse the damaging effects of pollution and unnaturally large freshwater discharges into ecologically vital water bodies. The project's purpose is to restore the delicate balance



of fresh and salt water in the Indian River Lagoon and estuary. Polluted water will be treated and depleted habitats will be revitalized.

The \$1.3 billion Indian River Lagoon South Restoration Project is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), a system-wide plan to restore, protect and preserve the remaining Everglades. The final report for the IRL-S project was submitted to Congress in 2005 for authorization in a future Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). A WRDA has not yet been passed by Congress.

Additional project information can be obtained from www.evergladesplan.org. For special needs, please contact Erica Robbins at 561-683-1577, ext. 32.